



TERRIBLE CRIME COMMITTED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Mother and Four Children Brutally Killed

HOUSE BURNED DOWN

Bodies of Victims are All Found in a Single Bed Room in Bed Undisturbed

LYING IN NATURAL POSITIONS

Evidence All Points to the Fact That the Murder Was Committed Before the House Was Set on Fire—No Clues Have Developed.

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., Feb. 26.—Mrs. Minnie Beekman, widow of the late W. M. Beekman, a prominent resident of this county, and her four children, were burned to death at their residence, seven miles south of this city, shortly after 2 o'clock this morning. The evidence all points to the fact that murder was committed before the house was fired. The dead are:

- MRS. MINNIE BEEKMAN, aged 40.
- VERA BEEKMAN, aged 14.
- RAYMOND BEEKMAN, aged 11.
- ANNIE BEEKMAN, aged 9.
- ARTHUR BEEKMAN, aged 6.

The family occupied a single bedroom, the mother and two of the children occupying one bed and the oldest boy and girl sleeping in a second bed on the opposite side of the room. The charred bodies were found in the exact position each was accustomed to occupy in bed, and the half-consumed mattress on which Mrs. Beekman slept was covered with what appeared to be bloodstains. The cotton in the mattress has been placed in the hands of a chemist for analysis.

The fire was first seen by neighbors about 2:30 o'clock and the first men to appear on the premises found the house a mass of flames, but looking through the burning boards, the bodies could be seen on the beds, lying apparently in natural positions. Coroner McGinn and Sheriff Kelley were early upon the scene and a careful examination of the premises was made. No clues were developed that might be of help in uncovering the mystery.

So far as known the family had no enemies and there is no reason to suspect anyone in the vicinity of the

MISSING MAN'S HEAD IS FOUND

Ghastly Find Made Near Umatilla of Man Who Disappeared Several Months Ago

PENDLETON, Or., Feb. 26.—The mystery surrounding the disappearance of V. H. Hedberg, of Cumberland, Wis., at Umatilla, August 5 of last year, was partly cleared up last evening by the discovery of the missing man's head, two miles north of Hermiston. Efforts to find the remainder of the body have so far been unavailing, as the head had probably been carried to its present location by coyotes.

Hedberg was on his way from Wisconsin to Ashland with his daughter to join his son. He stepped from the

crime. A watchdog belonging to Mrs. Beekman was poisoned a few days ago before the tragedy, and a little house dog that was kept in the bedroom at night was found unharmed on the premises this morning.

MONEY GOES ABROAD.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Large sums of money are being sent out of the United States annually to the Postal Savings Banks of Europe, as a result of the absence of such banks here, according to Post-Office Inspector Carter B. Keene of Washington, who is in Chicago. Mr. Keene emphasizes the urgent need for the establishment of postal savings banks in this country.

BACK YARD PICTURES.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—The Fine Arts Society of Oak Park has decided to take photographs of unclean back yards and give them to the local papers for publication.

"Our campaign for cleanliness," said President White, "will begin Monday. We will have a staff photographer search out these dirty yards and maybe publicity will bring some of these wealthy citizens who are too lazy to look after their premises to their senses."

SUPFRAGETTES ACTIVE.

Group Pounces On A Labor Union And Ursups Hall And Time.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Twelve women, members of the equal suffrage association, swooped down upon a meeting of carpenters and joiners Union No. 62 last night, took possession for an hour and made a plea to organized labor to join them in their fight for the ballot.

Only once was there any disturbance. During the time Mrs. Corinne S. Brown was delivering an address, a group of men became noisy. One of them protesting against the invasion of the women.

"It's all bunk, they can't put it over me," he declared. The suffragette in the chair pounded on the table for order, and Mrs. Brown paused in her peroration.

"If that man wants to speak, let him come to the platform, and I will divide my time with him," she said.

"There should be a sergeant at arms here to keep order."

Members of the Union hastened to the scene of the disturbance and the dissenter was quieted.

LOOKING TO SIBERIA.

United States Memorialized To Help Little Republic.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—A committee claiming to represent the negro race in the United States has presented to Congress a memorial asking for the adoption of the Pres-

ident's recommendation for sending a commission to Liberia to study the situation. The committee says that the Liberian government is an American institution and that the civilization of the Liberians is in keeping with American thought and customs.

"So far as ascertained," says the committee, "the entire colored population of the United States approve of the appointment of the proposed commission and the relations of the United States to Liberia make it an imperative duty for us to help the little republic which is struggling against adverse conditions."

GUNBOAT IN TROUBLE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The United States revenue cutter Mohawk, bound from New London to Tompkinsville, ran on the rocks of Hell Gate and late tonight is still hard aground despite the efforts of the tugs to move her. The cutter's bow is resting on a ledge of rock which it is feared will tear a hole in her bottom. An effort will probably be made early tomorrow at high tide to float the vessel, but chances are unfavorable.

TRIAL LOOKS BRIGHT FOR PEACOCK.

REPORTS INDICATE THAT EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM IS VERY WEAK.

According to reports that reached this city from Cathlamet last night the trial of Dr. Peacock thus far has done little more than to strongly indicate the physician's innocence. It was stated last night that the prosecution seemed very weak, and the testimony of the mother and of other witnesses yesterday for the prosecution, simply tended to show that the Cathlamet physician was not directly or indirectly connected with the death of the young girl.

Friends of Dr. Peacock rejoiced in the fact that the testimony also tended to clear him of all suspicion of having ever wronged the girl. Such is one statement of the matter made last night by one or more men of intelligence who had listened to the evidence yesterday. It was said that not one scintilla of evidence was produced to show that the physician had ever acted in a manner other than he should have acted.

The prosecution will continue today. A night session was held last night. Mrs. Longtine, the young man, Morel, who was said to have been engaged to the dead girl, one of her sisters, and Dr. Hacking, were called by the prosecution yesterday.

Coroner Gilbaugh of this city also was put on the stand, merely to identify certain exhibits.

For the defense there is an array of witnesses and among them six physicians, all of whom are said to be prepared to testify that it would have been physically and otherwise impossible for Dr. Peacock to have caused the death of the girl. From Astoria Dr. Estes, Dr. Henderson, Dr. Reames and Dr. Vernon are witnesses for the defense, and all went up to Cathlamet yesterday, and from Portland there are two doctors for the defense, Dr. Bell and Dr. Watts.

SNUDAY HORSEWHIPPED.

Famous Evangelist Has Set-to With Crazy Person.

SPRINGFIELD, Feb. 26.—Evangelist W. A. (Billy) Sunday, former baseball player, was horsewhipped by a man named Sherman Potts tonight. Sunday's tabernacle was filled with 8000 persons. Potts struck Sunday several terrific blows. The evangelist leaped from the platform and knocked Potts down and they rolled and tumbled in the aisle almost creating a panic. Several men finally secured Potts and held him until the police arrived. Potts, who said he was once insane, stated he had made an attack in defense of the women whom he declared had been criticized by the evangelist.

PUP-LOVE RESULTS.

BUTTE, Mont., Feb. 26.—Charles Stephens, aged 17, has been unconscious since 11 o'clock Wednesday from a blow on his jaw struck by Lionel Smith, aged 14, and fears are expressed that Stephens will die. The two boys had crossed in love, Smith declaring that Stephens had stolen his sweetheart from him. In the mix-up Smith struck Stephens but once, lifting him clear off his feet and landing him on his head. Smith weighs 170 pounds and is a veritable giant in stature. He is in jail.

HARD ARGUMENT IN DAYS TRIAL

Defense Have Best of Carmack Trial Today

LAW POINTS DECIDED

Try to Make Out That Carmack Was in a Very Ugly Humor

MIGHT HAVE ATTACK COOPER

State Offered to Prove That Senator Carmack Was Not in Ugly Humor and Only Laughed at Idea That There Might be Any Trouble.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 26.—The Cooper-Sharpe trial today was marked by bitter argument between the opposing counsel and closed with a decided advantage to the defense at the same time an interesting law point was decided by Judge Hart. The defense offered proof that Colonel Cooper was told by Edward Craig whom the colonel had sent to see Senator Carmack, that Carmack was in an ugly humor. The case of the defense was based really upon this one expression, for both colonel and Robin Cooper testified they armed themselves because they were led to believe from the remark that Carmack might attack the colonel. The state then offered to prove by two of defendant witnesses, that Carmack was not in an ugly humor, but laughed at the idea of trouble. The defense fought the admission of this testimony with more vim than has characterized any argument since the trial began. The counsel stated that the State would cross-examine only on such matters as should be gone over in direct examination. Court then excluded the jury, and one of the witnesses, as the State declared he would, admitted that Carmack laughed at the idea of trouble. The court held that the testimony must be excluded. When T. L. Thompson was on the stand almost the same question arose, and the judge said he would render a final decision on the point tomorrow, but intimated that unless the State discovered some new authorities to support its contention, he would rule out the testimony.

Revolvers played a prominent part in today's hearing and the testimony was much to the advantage of defense. The prosecution had gone on the theory that the revolver with two empty shells found near Carmack's body was Colonel Cooper's and that the revolvers introduced as Coopers, which had not been discharged, was the one carried by Carmack.

Major Vortless, however, who loaned Carmack the revolver, identified the one found near his body with the discharged shells as the one he loaned the Senator. Police Commissioner identified the revolver which had not been fired as the one he loaned Colonel Cooper.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Final Business Of The Session Was Passing Resolutions.

CHEYENNE, Feb. 26.—The last of the Decy farming congress was given over to considering resolution. The resolutions adopted include: Those declining to advocate any special method of dry farming and favor investigation of all methods; Urging Legislatures of western states now in session to pass laws permitting the expenditure of money for dry farming experiments. Condemning methods of unscrupulous land agents. After a struggle the name of the congress was changed to "Dry Farming Congress and a resolution was adopted providing for permanent headquarters. Billings, Mont., was selected for the November meeting.

HEALTHY CHICAGO.

Claims To Be The Healthiest Of The 350,000 Class.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Chicago still remains the healthiest American city of more than 350,000 inhabitants, according to the annual report of the health department for 1908, just made public. Its death rate from all causes is 14.10 per 1000 of population and the health officials assert that the public has become so greatly interested in health precautions that further decrease is expected in the current year.

A total of 30,548 persons died during the year—1595 fewer than in 1907. Seven percent of the total deaths were due to violence and of these an even 500 were suicides or an increase of 101 over the preceding year. This marked increase in self destruction is attributed partly by the health officials to financial depression.

From typhoid fever there were only 338 deaths the lowest rate in the history of the city. Before the drainage canal was constructed the report says, Chicago had the highest typhoid death rate of any city in the civilized world.

"It reads the report, 'the pre-channel typhoid rate had prevailed during the last nine years, there would have been 10,035 deaths from typhoid fever in that period or 6.014 more than actually occurred. Figuring on the basis of the legislative value of a human life, this saving represents the sum of \$60,140,000 or more than the entire cost of the drainage channel to date."

SUNDRY CIVIL BILL PASSES CONGRESS

WARM DEBATE INDULGED IN OVER RULES BROUGHT IN DURING PASSAGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—After dragging along for a week the sundry civil bill carrying \$137,000,000 was passed by the House today with many material amendments, at debate at times being very warm. The rule brought in by Delzell, making it in order for a majority to pass a bill under suspension of the rules instead of two-thirds, aroused the Democrats under the leadership of Williams to criticize the appropriations committee for not affording, as was charged, more time to study the supply bills. This led to an incontinent filibuster. A resolution was adopted appointing a committee to report as to whether the remarks of Cook delivered yesterday attacking the President, should be expunged from the record. The ship subsidy bill was reported and the conference report on the penal code and diplomatic and consular appropriation bills were presented. The Indian appropriation bill was agreed to and the naval appropriation bill was returned to conference.

Later the conference report on diplomatic and consular bill agreed to the following passage of more than 300 private pension bills. The House adjourned at 10:30 p. m. until tomorrow.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TAFT STRONGLY PROTESTS AGAINST PAPERS

FLAT IRON SERVICE. Consumes Immense Current of Electricity In The Windy City.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Complaints that the installation of electric flatirons have increased the cost not only of the current they use, but of all other electricity consumed, have been made to a local electric lighting company and to city officials. It is said that these irons have been supplied to between 10,000 and 15,000 consumers on trial, free of charge for the iron itself, but that the moment the current was turned on it cost the consumer an average of 50 cents, even if the iron was not used again.

The flatiron has the same effect as increasing the number of lamps in a house by six or seven and if used at the same time the lamps are burning, increases what is known as the "primary charge" for the use of electricity. The use of the flatiron, together with lamps at any one time during each month, causes a higher maximum gauge and necessitates a correspondingly increased payment at the full rate.

An official of the company declares that with proper use there is no ground for complaint.

"The flatirons are usually used in the day time, when the lights in the house are not burning," he said. "If they are so used the maximum cannot be increased. It is a very simple matter and entirely within the control of the consumer."

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—President-Elect Taft vigorously protested tonight against what he said was an absolutely misrepresentation of certain New York afternoon papers as to what he had said in answering questions in regard to the tariff revision. He had stated, he said, that the present business depression was undoubtedly due in large measure to the fact that the tariff is to be revised at an extra session of Congress to meet March 15; that it was of the highest importance that this revision should not be delayed. Taft also said he favored a permanent tariff commission, plans for which had been marked out with deliberation. Its duties would be to make a careful study of the proposed new tariff law and to the end that the whole question of tariff might be placed on a more scientific base upon this statement.

Taft was made to say that the present tariff schedules were responsible for the present business depression and that when they were revised their parents would not know them, all of which was amplified at length and made positive by appearing to be a vigorous and enthusiastic statement. Taft was perturbed over what he called misrepresentation. He had, he declared, changed his position in no way and held the same views as publicly announced during and since the campaign.

MAY HAUL DOWN FLAG.

FORT MONROE, Feb. 26.—Admiral Sperry left for Washington last night. The impression grows that Sperry will soon haul down his flag. Common gossip is that the president intends to appoint the next commander-in-chief before he retires from office next Thursday.

JUDGESHIP BILL STRIKES BREAKER

House Disagrees on Senate Amendment to Washington Judicial Bill and Sends it Back

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—He has prepared data showing there is 40 per cent more business before the Oregon District Court than before the District Court in Western Washington and if Western Washington is entitled to another Judge, Oregon is doubly justified in making the demand.

Friends of Senator Fulton are exerting their efforts to induce the House to accept the Senate amendment, so that Senator Fulton can be placed upon the bench when he retires from Senate.

OLYMPIA, Feb. 26.—Acting Governor Hay today signed the bill increasing the membership of the supreme court from seven to nine and named two new justices, Emmett N. Parker of Tacoma and George E. Morris of Seattle.

The House today made local option a special order for Tuesday.

The subject will come up on divided report of public morals committee. A minority recommends the adoption of the bill which passed the Senate and a majority recommends the new bill which is a combination of the Senate bill and the anti-saloon league bill that passed the House.

The House passed the bill prohibiting bucketshops. The Senate passed the bill enlarging the duties of the railway commission to include supervision of warehouses and grain inspection.